

**REMARKS**

In the August 26, 2003 Office Action, claim 1 was rejected under 35 USC 112, second paragraph, claims 1 and 11-12 were rejected under 35 USC 103(a), and claims 13-15 were objected to as being dependent upon a rejected base claim (claim 1), but were indicated to be allowable if rewritten in independent form including all of the limitations of the base claim and any intervening claims. No other objections or rejections were made in the Office Action.

***Status of Claims and Amendments***

In response, applicants have amended independent claim 1 by including the limitation found in claim 13 and addressing the rejection under 35 USC 112, second paragraph, and cancelled claims 12-13. Thus, claims 1, 11, 14-15 are pending, with claim 1 being the only independent claim. Reexamination and reconsideration of the pending claims are respectfully requested in view of the above amendments and the following comments.

***Rejection of claim 1 under 35 USC 112, second paragraph***

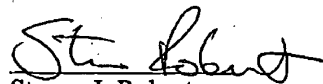
Claim 1 was rejected under 35 USC 112, second paragraph, because the terms "the salts thereof" and "peptides and amino acids obtained from the decomposition thereof" are allegedly vague and indefinite. Although the applicants respectfully disagree with the Examiner's opinion regarding whether these terms are vague and indefinite, they have complied with the Examiner's request for specific salts to be recited by amending the term "the salts thereof" with "sodium or potassium salts thereof", and have deleted the term "peptides and amino acids obtained from the decomposition thereof". Thus, the applicants respectfully request that this rejection be withdrawn in view of this amendment.

***Rejection of claims 1 and 11-12 under 35 USC 103(a) as being unpatentable over van Pottelsberghe de la Potterie in view of Goldberg***

Claims 1 and 11-12 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as being unpatentable over U.S. Patent No. 3,716,380 to van Pottelsberghe d la Potterie in view of Goldberg. However, the Examiner has indicated that claims 13-15 would be allowable if rewritten in independent form including all of the limitations of the base claim (claim 1) and any intervening claims. The applicants gratefully acknowledge this offer, and have therefore amended claim 1 with the limitation found in claim 13 and cancelled claim 12. The applicants respectfully assert that the rejection of claims 1 and 11 under 35 USC 103(a) has been overcome by this amendment, and that the remaining claims 14 and 15 that depend from claim 1 are therefore also allowable.

In view of the foregoing amendment and comments, applicants believe that the currently pending claims are now in condition for allowance. Reexamination and reconsideration of the pending claims are respectfully requested. The Commissioner is hereby authorized to charge payment of any fees under 37 C.F.R. §1.17 which may become due in connection with this application to Deposit Account No. 19-2042.

Respectfully submitted,



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